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TEACHING OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES IN POLAND

In 1950, Dr Roman Stopa, docent of Jagiellonian University, established a school of African languages and linguistics in Krakow. In this school, the Swahili, Ewe, Hausa, Bushman, and Hottentot languages are studied; however, the mastery of these languages is only a steppingstone to the study of social movements in Africa. The five languages mentioned above are spoken in all of East, West, and Middle Africa, and in some parts of South Africa.

There are hundreds of African languages and dialects. Of the more important are nearly 400 Sudanic languages, nearly 300 Bantu and semi-Bantu languages, nearly 160 Hamito-Semitic languages, and five dialects of the Hottentot language. The Arabic influence is not as pronounced in the Ewe language as in the Swahili and Hausa languages.

Arabic, Berber, and Tunisian are considered important. The new school is a section of the Krakow Oriental Linguistics [not further identified], but includes Arabic linguistics.

Doctor Stopa has written several treatises in the Polish language, among which are Archaism of Bushman Culture, Study of the Population and Culture of South and West Africa, and Hottentots.

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